



Office file
9/4/56

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release SEPTEMBER 1, 1956

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS

Nationwide hunting dates for the shooting of migratory waterfowl during the 1956-57 season, as selected by the State game departments, were announced today by Acting Secretary of the Interior Fred G. Aandahl.

Within the framework of October 1, 1956 to January 15, 1957, as approved by Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton on August 16, the States were permitted to choose the specific dates most desirable to them, based on the number of days allotted to each flyway.

Although split seasons were again offered by the Departments Fish and Wildlife Service as options to the States, with the same 10 percent penalty in effect as last year, only Louisiana elected to break its season into two parts.

In the Atlantic Flyway, all States will have a season of 70 consecutive days.

In the Mississippi Flyway all States, except Minnesota, will have a season of 70 consecutive days. In Minnesota, at the request of the Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway Council, representing all the States of that Flyway, an experimental season will be tried this year which will give that State an extra duck in the bag and a shorter season than the rest of the Flyway. It will begin October 6 and continue for a period of 55 days, ending on November 9. Shooting days were cut off at both the beginning and end of the season. This in effect permitted Minnesota to exchange 15 shooting days and a later opening for an extra duck in the bag.

Studies will be scheduled to determine the effect of the extra duck in the bag and the reduced number of days of hunting. Minnesota's progressive step in waterfowl management by delaying the opening is designed to protect local nesting ducks and increase that production in the flyway to benefit future hunting.

Central Flyway States will have a straight 75-day season on ducks and coots, and a 60-day season on geese.

In the Pacific Flyway, all States selected an 80-day straight season.

The Federal regulations announced today include the season dates selected by the States and prescribed bag and possession limits by flyways for wild ducks, geese, coots, brant, and jacksnipe. The season on jacksnipe was increased 15 days to a total of 30 days this year.

Recognizing the fact that waterfowl production on the breeding grounds this year was at the same high levels of last year's good crop, the Fish and Wildlife Service again established long seasons to provide hunters a generous opportunity to share in the harvest. This year's seasons of 70 to 80 days in the various flyways compare to 35 to 55 days of hunting in 1950.

For quick reference, the open seasons and the bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form in the attached schedules.

Atlantic Flyway States

		: Geese (ex-				
		: cept snow				
	: Ducks	: geese)	: Coots	: Brant	: Wilson's snipe	
Daily bag limits	1/ 4	2	10	6	8	
Possession limits	1/ 8	4	10	6	8	
Seasons in--						
Connecticut		Nov. 3-Jan. 11			Closed season	
Delaware		Nov. 2-Jan. 10			Nov. 2-Dec. 1	
District of Columbia		Closed season			Closed season	
Florida		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Dec. 15-Jan. 13	
Georgia		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Dec. 3-Jan. 1	
Maine		Oct. 5-Dec. 13			Oct. 5-Nov. 3	
Maryland		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Nov. 15-Dec. 14	
Massachusetts		Oct. 20-Dec. 28			Oct. 20-Nov. 18	
New Hampshire		Oct. 5-Dec. 13			Oct. 5-Nov. 3	
New Jersey		Nov. 3-Jan. 11			Nov. 3-Dec. 1	
New York		See footnote 2			See footnote 3	
North Carolina		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Nov. 22-Dec. 21	
Pennsylvania		See footnote 4			Oct. 10-Nov. 8	
Rhode Island		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Nov. 7-Dec. 6	
South Carolina		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Dec. 17-Jan. 15	
Vermont		Oct. 5-Dec. 13			Closed season	
Virginia		Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Nov. 19-Dec. 18	
West Virginia		Nov. 5-Jan. 13			Nov. 5-Dec. 3	
Puerto Rico		Dec. 15-Feb. 12			Closed season	

1/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag limit may include 1 wood duck, possession limit 2. Daily bag and possession limits may include 1 hooded merganser only. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be counted in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.

2/ New York: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 15-Dec. 23: Provided, That on Long Island the season shall be Nov. 3-Jan. 11.

3/ New York: Wilson's snipe, Oct. 15-Nov. 13: Provided, That on Long Island the season shall be Nov. 3-Dec. 2.

4/ Pennsylvania: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 10-Dec. 18, except in the counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware, and the Delaware River bordering on such counties where the season shall be Nov. 3-Jan. 11.

1/
Mississippi Flyway States

	: Ducks (ex- : cept wood : Geese : Coots : : ducks) :			: Wilson's snipe		
Daily bag limits	2/	3/	4 :	4/	5 :	10 :
Possession limits	2/	3/	8 :	4/	5 :	10 :
Seasons in--						
Alabama	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Dec. 17-Jan. 15		
Arkansas	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Nov. 16-Dec. 15		
Illinois	Oct. 13-Dec. 21			Oct. 20-Nov. 18		
Indiana	Oct. 20-Dec. 28			Oct. 20-Nov. 18		
Iowa	Oct. 6-Dec. 14			Oct. 6-Nov. 4		
Kentucky	Nov. 3-Jan. 11			Nov. 19-Dec. 18		
Louisiana	See footnote 5			Dec. 13-Jan. 11		
Michigan	Oct. 1-Dec. 9			Oct. 1-Oct. 30		
Minnesota 3/	Oct. 6-Nov. 29			Oct. 6-Nov. 4		
Mississippi	See footnote 6			Dec. 17-Jan. 15		
Missouri	Oct. 26-Jan. 3			Oct. 26-Nov. 24		
Ohio	See footnote 7			Oct. 15-Nov. 13		
Tennessee	Nov. 7-Jan. 15			Dec. 1-Dec. 30		
Wisconsin	Oct. 1-Dec. 9			Oct. 1-Oct. 30		

1/ Except as provided in footnote 7, the shooting hours for waterfowl and coots in these States are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset and for Wilson's snipe one half-hour before sunrise to sunset.

2/ Wood ducks: Closed season. Mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may include 1 hooded merganser. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be counted in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.

3/ Minnesota: Daily bag limit on ducks is 5, possession limit 10.

4/ Geese: Such limit may not include, in the alternative, more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies; (b) 2 white-fronted geese; or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

5/ Louisiana: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 1-Nov. 25 and Dec. 7-Jan. 13: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana to latitude 31° N., the season shall be Nov. 7-Jan. 15.

6/ Mississippi: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 7-Jan. 15: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River from the northerly boundary of Louisiana to latitude 31° N., the season shall be Nov. 1-Nov. 25 and Dec. 7-Jan. 13.

7/ Ohio: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 15-Dec. 22: Provided, That for Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, and 1/4 mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, the season shall be Oct. 10-Dec. 18 and the shooting hours for the area described shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Central Flyway States

	:	:	:	Geese (ex-	:	:
	:	:	:	cept Ross's	:	:
	:	Ducks	Coots	geese)	:	Wilson's snipe
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Daily bag limits	1/	5	10	2/	5	8
Possession limits	1/	10	10	2/	5	8
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Seasons in--	:	:	:	:	:	:
Colorado	Oct. 25-Jan. 7	See footnote 3	Oct. 25-Nov. 23			
Kansas	Oct. 7-Dec. 20	Oct. 7-Dec. 5	Oct. 7-Nov. 5			
Montana 2/	Oct. 6-Dec. 19	Oct. 6-Dec. 4	Oct. 6-Nov. 4			
Nebraska	Oct. 5-Dec. 18	Oct. 5-Dec. 3	Oct. 5-Nov. 3			
New Mexico	Nov. 2-Jan. 15	Nov. 17-Jan. 15	Nov. 2-Dec. 1			
North Dakota	Oct. 1-Dec. 14	Oct. 1-Nov. 29	Oct. 1-Oct. 30			
Oklahoma	Oct. 19-Jan. 1	Oct. 19-Dec. 17	Dec. 3-Jan. 1			
South Dakota	Oct. 1-Dec. 14	Oct. 6-Dec. 4	Oct. 1-Oct. 30			
Texas 4/	Nov. 2-Jan. 15	Nov. 2-Dec. 31	Dec. 17-Jan. 15			
Wyoming	Oct. 11-Dec. 24	See footnote 5	Closed season			

1/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may include 1 wood duck and 1 hooded merganser. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be counted in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.

2/ Geese: Such limit may^{not} include, in the alternative, more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies; (b) 2 white-fronted geese; or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose. Closed season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties in Montana.

3/ Colorado: Geese, Nov. 9-Jan. 7, except in the counties of Routt and Moffat where the season, so far as it affects Canada geese and its subspecies only, shall close on Dec. 15. Closed season on all species of geese in the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Jackson, Rio Grande, and Saguache.

4/ Texas: Closed season on black-bellied tree ducks.

5/ Wyoming: Geese, Oct. 26-Dec. 24: Provided, That in all areas of the State (except Teton and Goshen Counties and that part of Lincoln County within the drainages of the Salt, Grey's, and Snake Rivers), the season on geese, so far as it affects Canada geese and its subspecies only, shall terminate on Dec. 15: Provided further, That a closed season is prescribed on snow geese in Lincoln and Teton Counties.

Pacific Flyway States

	Ducks	Geese (except Ross's geese)	Coots and Gallinules (singly or in aggregate)	Brant	Wilson's snipe
Daily bag limits.	1/ 6	2/ 6	25	3	8
Possession limits	1/ 12	2/ 6	25	3	8
Seasons in--					
Arizona 2/	Oct. 28-Jan. 15	Oct. 28-Feb. 9	Closed season	Closed season	
California 2/	See footnote 1 and 3	Nov. 17-Mar. 1	Dec. 1-Feb. 10	Dec. 1-Dec. 30	
Idaho 2/ 4/	Oct. 13-Dec. 31	Oct. 13-Dec. 31	Closed season	Closed season	
Nevada	See footnote 5	Oct. 13-Jan. 25	Closed season	Oct. 13-Nov. 11	
Oregon 2/	Oct. 13-Dec. 31	Oct. 13-Jan. 25	Dec. 1-Feb. 10	Nov. 17-Dec. 16	
Utah 2/	Oct. 13-Dec. 31	Oct. 13-Dec. 31	Closed season	Closed season	
Washington	Oct. 13-Dec. 31	Oct. 13-Jan. 25	Dec. 1-Feb. 10	Nov. 3-Dec. 2	

1/ In all States except California, the daily bag limit is 6 and the possession limit is 12. These limits may be increased to 9 and 15, respectively, provided such limits contain not less than 3 pintails, 3 widgeons, or 3 of these species in the aggregate. In California, the daily bag and possession limit is 7, which may be increased to 10, provided such limit contains not less than 3 pintails, 3 widgeons, or 3 of these species in the aggregate. Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits in all States may include 1 wood duck and 1 hooded merganser. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be counted in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.

2/ Geese: Not more than 3 of the dark species of geese may be included in the daily bag and possession limit: Provided, That in the counties of Yuma and Mohave, Arizona; the counties of Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bonneville, Idaho; the counties

of Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Lane, and Linn, Oregon; and in the entire State of Utah, the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 2 Canada geese or its subspecies: Provided further, That in California Fish and Game District No. 22 (as defined in the California Fish and Game Code) the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 1 Canada goose or its subspecies: And provided further, That in the areas designated the season on geese, so far as it affects Canada geese and its subspecies only, shall close on December 15.

3/ California: The seasons for hunting ducks and geese (except as limited in footnote 2) in three areas of the State are as follows:

Oct. 28-Jan. 15--In those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, east of U. S. Highway 95 from the Nevada line south of Blythe and east of the paved and graded road extending from Blythe to Ripley, Palo Verde, and Ogilby south to its intersection with U. S. Highway 80; thence east to Yuma.

Oct. 13-Dec. 31--In the area described as: Beginning at a point on the State Line Road between Oregon and California approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of its intersection with Highway 97; thence south along the west side of Indian Tom Lake on the Lairds Landing Road approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles; thence east approximately 1 mile; thence south and east approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the intersection of the Lairds Landing Road and the Porterfield Ranch Road; thence south and east on the Lairds Landing Road approximately 1 mile; thence north and east to the Oklahoma Flats Community; thence south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile; thence east approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles; thence south and east to Lairds Landing; thence east and north along the Chalk Banks road to the northwest corner of Section 30, T. 47 N., R. 3 E.; thence east across Sheepy Ridge on the section line common to sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, approximately 6 miles; thence due east approximately .1 mile across Section 30, T. 47 N., R. 4 E., to the Hill Road along the west side of T. 4; thence south along the Hill Road approximately 6 miles to its intersection with the north boundary of the Lava Beds National Monument; thence east along the north boundary of the Lava Beds National Monument approximately $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the northeast corner of the Lava Beds National Monument; thence 150 yards east to the west perimeter road of the Panhandle area; thence south and east along the west Panhandle Perimeter Road approximately 4 miles to the south end of the Panhandle; thence approximately 2 miles north and east along the Panhandle Perimeter Road to its intersection with the Great Northern Railway; thence approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ mile north on the Panhandle Perimeter Road to its intersection with the Modoc National Forest boundary; thence along the Modoc National Forest boundary approximately 2.3 miles; thence north 1 mile; thence east 1 mile; thence north 1 mile; thence east $\frac{1}{2}$ mile; thence north and east approximately .8 mile to the intersection of the Modoc National Forest boundary and the old Alturas-Malin County road near the center of the north line of Section 8, T. 46 N., R. 6 E.; thence north and west along the old Alturas-Malin County road to its intersection with the California-Oregon line in Section 14, T. 48 N., R. 5 E.; thence west along the State line to Highway 97; thence south approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the point of beginning.

Oct. 20-Jan. 7--In the remainder of the State.

4/ Idaho: Closed season on snow geese in the counties of Clark, Fremont, Madison, and Teton.

5/ Nevada: Ducks and geese, Oct. 13-Dec. 31: Provided, That in that portion of the State lying south and east of a line beginning at a point where Highway 91 intersects the Arizona-Nevada State line; thence following Highway 91 to Las Vegas; thence following Highway 95 to its intersection with the California-Nevada State line, the season shall be Oct. 28-Jan. 15.